

HISTORY OF RAYMOND

By ELIZABETH KING

J. W. EVANS

Pioneer, Prominent Churchman and Leading Citizen of Raymond.

J. W. Evans came to Raymond in May, 1903. That same year the new Taylor Stake was created and Raymond's first bishop, J. W. Knight was chosen one of the new stake presidency under Heber S. Allen.

This change necessitated the reorganization of the Raymond Ward bishopric. J. P. Anderson was chosen bishop with J. W. Evans and A. E. Fawn as counsellors and Fred Popgrass Clerk. Their first meeting was held September 6th. J. W. Evans took charge. Owing to his new duties Bishop Evans was released as MIA class leader and George Fairbanks was sustained. In June 1912 the Raymond ward was divided and J. W. Evans was chosen the first bishop of the new Second ward. He was ordained June 12 by Apostle David O. McKay. Their first meeting was held June 23rd in the assembly hall of the first school building in Raymond now owned by the Japanese. Bishop Evans in this meeting spoke of the prevailing drought and encouraged the saints to "trust in the Lord and not despair as a means of sustenance would be found."

It is interesting to note that in the second meeting which was held June 20 that the Dominion Day celebration would be postponed on account of the stormy weather.

President H. S. Allen visited the Second ward this same Sunday and



referred to the rain which had come in time to save the crops.

It is also interesting to note that in the third meeting held July 7 the first child blessed in the new ward Ellison Dwight Hawk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hawk of Raymond.

J. W. Evans was bishop from 1912 to 1924 when he was chosen counsellor to President H. S. Allen in the Taylor Stake. Upon the retirement of Mr. Allen J. W. was chosen president of the High Priests Quorum of the Stake. He taught a class for many years. He was considered a great teacher and most of his life was spent in teaching not only in church capacity but many years were devoted to school teaching.

In community service he has been Mayor of the town 1912 to 1913; chairman of the School trustees of the Raymond District, President of the Board of Trade, Secretary of the Raymond Stampede—he served on the committee that brought a School of Agriculture to Raymond, he worked with the committee that brought the Sugar Factory here, roads committee, the Milk River, L. A. Mary's Irrigation project, Raymond Hospital, Cheese Factory, etc. He was president of the Raymond Opera House for a number of years, in short he helped in every project for the benefit of the Town of Raymond.

Mr. Evans was a progressive farmer. For some time he worked for the Knight Sugar Co. as farm foreman and at the end of that time he entered the Sugar Factory as Foreman and in due time he became office manager of the company, position he held for seven years.

In 1915 he entered the Mercantile business of the Hub Company of Raymond. In 1921 he went into the Hasey Harris Implement business for the Massey Harris Company. Mr. Evans owned a half section of land which was considered one of the finest in Southern Alberta. J. W. Evans passed away in April, 1934 leaving a widow and nine children. It was said he lived the Rotarian motto "Be Vice Above Self" and "He was a peace maker if there ever was one."

Mrs. J. W. Evans (Phoebe) has been an active pioneer worker since 1903. In 1904 she was chosen counsellor to Catherine Tanner in Relief on class work. Some time after the division of the Raymond ward she was made president of the YLMA.

For many years she was a member of the Taylor Stake Mutual board, and many pleasant evenings have been spent in the old Evans home in a social way as well as in MIA capacities.

Six of the Evans family still reside in Raymond including the mother and five children.

Charlotte Ann (Mrs. Robert Gramma) has been a member of the Lake MIA and is at present second counsellor to Vivian Scoville in the old Ward YLMA. Phoebe (Mrs. Helen Dahl) inheriting some of the teaching tendencies of her father, has taught school for six years and has taught classes in the various organizations. She is at present first counsellor to Zetalia Taylor in the Taylor Stake YLMA and leader of the L.D.S. Girls Program in the third ward.

George W. filled a mission for his church and at present resides in Layton Utah. Alice (Mrs. R. Humphreys) resides in Picture Butte where she is active in church and community affairs. Joan L. is assistant Superintendent of the First Ward Sunday school and President of the Lions Club.

Alma Giv was at one time Superintendent of the old Second ward Sunday school. He served as a missionary for 2 years and is at present

missionary of the first ward. During world war 2 Paul H. was in active service overseas until captured by the Germans and held prisoner for one and a half years suffering many hardships.

For three years Garth D. studied and engineering at the Logan College. When the war broke out he joined up and was sent to work on

the Alaska Highway as a civilian flying officer in the Canadian Air Force. When the war closed he came home. He is making his home in Montreal at the present time.

A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

J. W. EVANS

Things I remember about my father are so many and so precious I hardly know where to begin. I am going as far back as I can remember before we started to school here. He was field man for the Knight Stake company and used to drive around from farm to farm in a buggy with a fine team.

Many times, whenever the weather permitted he took one or more of us children with him. We all loved to go and as we rode along we learned to see things in nature and appreciate them. The sky, the trees, & even the prairie grass took on new beauty when he talked about them. The stories he told us and the poems he said became part of our lives.

Father was always very busy but he had time for many "home evenings" and when the ward teachers came and together we listened to the gospel; he was taught by them, just as we were and as children he learned a lesson we never forgot about how to honor people in their positions in the Church.

Never in his life did I ever hear my father criticize or find fault with anyone holding authority in the church. And he would not allow in the home. The years that father worked on the farm were precious years to his family. As often as possible we all went to the farm to help him, and he always had one or two of the younger children with him.

The winter of 1918 when the flu was so bad and all the schools, churches etc., were closed, we had one of the nicest winters we ever had. It was clear cold weather, with no snow for quite a long time and everyday Daddy took all his children in the car to the Factory Lake.

Here we skated a large part of each day. Father was a very good skater and he bought us all skates and taught us to use them. There were five of us children who skated that winter with him, the oldest seventeen and the youngest six. We made big bonfires on the ice and mother would fix us rolls and wieners and hot chocolate for lunch.

Finally when we all came down with the flu together, except father who had it a couple of weeks before he nursed us all with no one to help him. He cared for us day and night for two weeks with scarcely any rest and was always kind and sympathetic. As we grew better I remember what nice trays of food he fixed for us, just as dainty as a woman could have done. Mother was very ill all the time the children were. When we were older and began teaching classes in primary and Sunday School Daddy was never failing source of help and inspiration to us.

I will never forget our long walks together, going to Mutual and Teachers Training classes which were held every week. When it was cold or windy we didn't notice it because Daddy recited poems to us all the way going and coming. In this way we learned most of his favorite poems. He also used to recite passages of prose that he liked. I remember one winter learning many poems (continued on back page.)

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